

Town Shellfish Crier
February 22, 2019

1. Wellfleet is Number One in the State for the Value of its Shellfish Landings!

In 2018, based on preliminary state reports, Wellfleet was first in the state for blood clam landings, second for oysters and third for quahogs. It was **first in the state for the value of its shellfish landings with more than \$6.8M earned by hard-working local shellfishermen**. About 15% of the town's population of 3,100 is involved in shellfish harvesting. We're the town's biggest year-round industry and an important contributor to the state's seafood economy – and we plan to stay that way!

2. Aquaculture Gear Clean-Up Day: Tomorrow, Sat., Feb. 23, 6:30 a.m.

Tomorrow, we are holding an aquaculture gear clean-up day. Unfortunately, the ice was devastating to many farmers, and we feel horrible about the loss of oysters and expensive gear. We have been impressed by how many people have come together to help find and remove gear so far, but we need this negative tide to find more. We are also concerned about lost gear impacts on other harbor users, such as recreational boaters. We need a community effort to help find and retrieve the gear. We'd appreciate your help, if you can.

3. Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative (MSI)

The Shellfish Advisory Board is holding a meeting on Monday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Council on Aging, for a presentation and discussion about the [Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative](#). As recreational harvesters, you are stakeholders whose input is important. Please attend to learn more and share your thoughts.

4. Save the Date for a Shellfish Talk

On Friday, March 15, from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Wellfleet's own Dr. Barbara Brennessel will give a talk about shellfish aquaculture as part of a Sustainable Community Potluck Series at the Eastham Chapel in the Pines. Brennessel is the author of "Good Tidings: The History and Ecology of Shellfish Farming in the Northeast." She is a wealth of information and a terrific speaker, so don't miss this fun and delicious event! Feel free to bring a dish to pass.

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov or 508-349-0325 with ideas for information to include in these communications. Thank you!

Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable

John Mankevetch
Assistant Shellfish Constable

Chris Manulla
Deputy Shellfish Constable